

Amendments to the Specification:

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, at line 4 as shown below:*

This is a continuation of copending application serial number 09/878,696 filed on June 11, 2001, now abandoned.

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, at line 3 as shown below:*

The outboard storage manager may further ~~includes~~ include interim storage for storing data transferred between the host processor and the combined physical data storage device arrangement via the virtual data storage device. The outboard storage manager includes a front end and a back end. The front end is operable for presenting to the host processor the virtual data storage image having the desired data storage attribute for the particular data application. The back end is operable for organizing the physical storage devices in the suitable arrangement. The front end is connected by a data channel function and a control path function to the host processor for receiving the data and information indicative of the desired data storage attribute. The back end is connected to each of the plurality of physical data storage devices by respective data channels for transferring the received data to the organized physical data storage device arrangement providing the desired data storage attribute.

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, at line 19 as shown below:*

Management software 42 further performs virtual volume management. When a host system creates a new data set the serial number of the data set is remembered by the host system that created the data set. The combination of the data set name and the volume serial number is the identifier that is used in the future when the data set is read. In the environment of outboard storage manager 10, the volume represented by this serial number is an illusion to host processors 18 and 20, but the outboard storage manager must remember what that host known serial number is when the data set is created so that it can respond to subsequent requests to read that data set as if the data set resides on that volume. In addition to the serial number of the volume that the host processor believed the data set was created on, outboard storage manager 10 must keep the position of the data set relative to the beginning of that

volume. When the host processor reads the data set, positioning commands are issued to the virtual device to move to the place on the volume where the host processor thinks the data set was created. The outboard storage manager virtual device front end 14 will accept and portray the illusion that these commands are executed.

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 24, at line 7 as shown below:*

Eighth, outboard storage manager 10 may use the storage on one data storage device as more than one storage level for a particular data application. Ninth ~~Eighth~~, the outboard storage manager may use the media of a single level as more than one level for a particular data application.